



Maritime Heritage Working Group

Meeting Minutes

Date: 07/11/2011

Start Time: 3:00 PM

End Time: 4:00 PM

Meeting Method: Conference call

Attendance: Leader: Teri Leicher; Hans Van Tilburg, Becky Hommon, Dick Gould, Trisha Drennan, Jean Souza, Gordon Labedz

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Review bullet-point summary of prior meeting minutes (distributed earlier) for potential inventory and research, outreach and education, and resource protection draft recommendations.

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- Concerns regarding cost of proposed inventory, assessment and monitoring, how can the sanctuary afford that? See recommendation including “support should not threaten or compete with priority conservation goals like Humpback whales. Cost-saving measures and partnerships should be pursued (ORISE, JPAC, etc).” Also, issue prioritization handled at a separate time; recommending action does not necessarily mean that action is granted high priority or fully supported.
- Suggestion of designating one heritage site or group of sites (ex. Corsair aircraft in sanctuary near Kokohead) as a case study site for collaborative and cost-effective stewardship.
- Possible recommendation: designate sites marked on the heritage resource inventory map as those needing preservation; consider extension of sanctuary boundaries to include other areas where wrecks are located (ie Kauai south shore).
- Word of caution: researchers and managers think in terms of conservation. Reality of the situation is that all decisions are also political. Divers and fishermen on Kauai do not support sanctuary. Maritime heritage seen as inconsequential and a diversion. No new regulations wanted. Those are the folks you need to convince.
- Heritage resources have multiple values: archaeological, recreational, etc. Also, sites may be potential environmental hazards ie fuel, ordnance; multiple reasons for conducting inventory. HIRSA (Hawaii Island Recreational Scuba Association) is the umbrella agency of dive operators island-wide. Divers need to get the information about the local heritage resources, and what the sanctuary can do for them. Promoting responsible access should be emphasized.
- Summary of previous minutes is close to complete; Specific items might be highlighted (no additional laws needed...already exist; cost-saving measures must be pursued; inclusion of resource can mean sanctuary providing heritage training for sport divers, etc).
- What role can HIRSA play? Suggestion that final MHWG recommendations document be shared with HIRSA and that HIRSA assist in getting information to the divers.



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- Post-meeting comment: replace final recommendation of “Adopt a maritime heritage sanctuary regulation...” with “Support the existing maritime heritage preservation mandates (state and federal laws) that already apply to these resources in Hawaii.”
- Next steps: sanctuary suggests that working group recommendations take the form of a short stand-alone document. Some preface material, explaining maritime heritage issue, need for recommendations, methods etc. be added to summary bullet points.

Action Items

- All MHWG members: submit any further comments on summary bullet points to Teri and Hans by 07/22/11.
- Draft of recommendations document to be created (explanatory material added to existing summary) and distributed to MHWG prior to next meeting for final approval.

Next meeting: 08/08/2011 at 3:00 PM